A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01S3/30 G02 G02B6/34 H04B10/17 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO1S G02B H04B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 6 359 725 B1 (ISLAM MOHAMMED) 1,2,7,8 19 March 2002 (2002-03-19) cited in the application , sentence 38 - sentence 43; figure 7 X US 2002/105715 A1 (NAITO TAKAO ET AL) 1.7.8 8 August 2002 (2002-08-08) paragraph '0080! - paragraph '0081!; figure 14 A US 5 623 362 A (OHYA JUN ET AL) 1.7.8 22 April 1997 (1997-04-22) column 7, line 35 - line 55; figure 1 A EP 0 588 557 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE & 1,7,8 TELEGRAPH) 23 March 1994 (1994-03-23) column 3 -column 4; figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international Invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21 October 2003 29/10/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patenthaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Riswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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